

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 318

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOGOTA 7901

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CDES CO (EASTY, EDWARD DWIGHT)

SUBJ: DEATH OF EASTY

REF: BOGOTA 7727

1. SUMMARY: CONSUL FRANK ARENZ VISITED SAN ANDRES AUGUST 18-19 RE EASTY CASE. HE CONSULTED WITH VARIOUS OFFICIALS AND DETERMINED THAT 1) FULL-TIME PROTECTION OF PROPERTY CANNOT BE PROVIDED BY POLICE, BUT PRIVATE ROUND-THE-CLOCK GUARDS COULD BE HIRED BY MRS. EASTY FOR A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF MONEY.
2) ALLEGED KILLERS OF EASTY ARE UNDER DETENTION, AND PROSECUTION IS UNDERWAY, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS NOT WITH OPTIMUM EFFECTIVENESS. DETAILS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOW:

2. PROTECTION OF EASTY PROPERTY. THE ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE DOES NOT HAVE PERSONNEL TO PROVIDE PROTECTION OF PROPERTY BUT HAS AGREED TO SEND POLICEMEN THERE FOR SEVERAL VARIABLE HOURS EACH DAY, IN ORDER TO SHOW POLICE PRESENCE AND INTEREST TO ANY WOULD-BE ROBBERS, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS MRS. EASTY CAN ARRANGE FOR A FULL-TIME GUARD. GUILLERMO CAVO, THE DIRECTOR OF THE CORPORACION NACIONAL DE TURISMO IN SAN ANDRES, AND A PERSONAL FRIEND OF CONSUL ARENZ, HAS OFFERED TO FOLLOW UP WITH THE POLICE CHIEF IN THIS REGARD. HE HAS ALSO OFFERED TO ARRANGE FOR THE HIRE OF PERMANENT WATCHMEN FOR THE PROPERTY IF MRS EASTY WILL AUTHORIZE HIM TO DO SO. HE ESTIMATES IT WOULD COST 3000 PESOS (UNDER DOLS 100) PER MONTH FOR 24 HR, 7-DAY WEEK GUARDS. HE IS WILLING UNDERTAKE TO

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HIRE GUARD AS SOON AS THE EMBASSY NOTIFIES HIM THAT MRS. EASTY

HAS GIVEN AUTHORITY TO DO SO.

3. PROSECUTION OF ALLEGED SLAYERS OF MR. EASTY:

A. THE JUDGE OF 12TH CRIMINAL INSTRUCTION, DR. DIAZ, IS IN CHARGE OF CASE. HE HAS ORDERED 60-DAY PRE-TRIAL DETENTION OF THREE MITCHELL BROTHERS AND ONE OTHER SUSPECT (NAME NOT GIVEN BUT PROBABLY GORDON). DR. DIAZ EXPECTS TRIAL TO BEGIN EARLY OCTOBER AND CONSIDERS IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF MRS. EASTY COULD RETURN TO TESTIFY AT TRIAL.

B. DR. CAVO STATED TO CONSUL ARENZ THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE MRS. EASTY MADE A WISE CHOICE OF ATTORNEY IN DR. HORACIO ATUESTA. HE FEELS ANY ATTORNEY SHOULD BE VIGOROUSLY PURSUING CASE AND THAT DR. ATUESTA IS NOT DOING SO. HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT MRS. EASTY HAS GIVEN ATUESTA A BLANKET POWER OF ATTORNEY WHICH WOULD EVEN ENABLE HIM TO SELL HER PROPERTY WITHOUT CONSULTING HER. (ATUESTA HAS NOT BEEN IN SAN ANDRES RECENTLY BUT HAS TOLD EMBASSY HE PLANS TO RETURN THERE NEXT WEEK). DR. DAVO RECOMMENDS THAT MRS. EASTY CONSIDER CHANGING ATTORNEYS AND IS PREPARED TO ASSIST IN LOCATING AN HONORABLE ONE. THE JUDGE ALSO EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT ATUESTA HAD NOT YET CONTACTED HIM TO DISCUSS CASE, TRIAL DATE, ETC.

4. THE JUDGE STATED MRS. MITCHELL WAS DETAINED BRIEFLY FOLLOWING THE POISONED FISH EPISODE, BUT WAS RELEASED FOR LACK OF CLINICAL EVIDENCE. (HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED THROUGH CONGRESSMAN HAROLD RUNNELS A COPY OF AN ALBUQUERQUE, NM LAB REPORT DATED #13/75 WHICH INDICATES HIGH LEVEL ARSENIC IN EASTY'S SYSTEM AT THAT TIME. WE PRESUME THIS REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO COURT BY MRS. EASTY'S ATTORNEY IN CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE RE-OPENING THAT CASE.)

5. DIRECTOR CAVO IS FULLY AWARE OF THE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS TO TOURISM IN THE ISLAND IF JUSTICE IS NOT DONE IN THIS CASE. HE IS PREPARED TO ASSIST THE EMBASSY AND MRS. EASTY IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE. HE IS COMING TO BOGOTA SUNDAY AUGUST 24 AND WILL CALL AT EMB ASAP THEREAFTER TO PROVIDE LATEST STATUS REPORT.

6. IT IS REQUESTED THAT MRS. EASTY BE INFORMED OF ABOVE AND THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HER WISHES RE HIRING OF GUARDS AND CHANGE OF ATTORNEYS BE FORWARDED TO THE EMBASSY NO LATER THAN MORNING AUGUST 25, WHEN DIRECTOR CAVO WILL CALL.

7. SENATOR MONTOYA, CONGRESSMEN WHITEHURST AND RUNNELS INTERESTED.

VAKY

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